



FEMA Awards L.A. County Fire Department \$1.5 Million Grant
March 5, 2004

Washington, DC – The Los Angeles County Fire Department was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Friday for firefighting costs stemming from the Williams Fire, which ravaged a large swath of the Angeles National Forest in September 2002, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) announced.

“Fire departments are asked to do so much with so few resources these days,” Senator Feinstein said. **“This grant will help the Los Angeles County Fire Department continue to do its lifesaving work.”**

The Williams Fire burned for more than a week, igniting nearly 38,000 acres of land and threatening thousands of homes in Claremont, LaVerne, San Dimas, Glendora, and Azusa. In the end, the fire exacted a significant toll on the community, injuring seven firefighters and destroying 62 homes and 14 outbuildings.

The blaze started in the San Gabriel Mountains near Camp Williams and spread rapidly due to the hot weather and quantity of dried-out wood in the area. A massive effort by the L.A. County Fire Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and numerous local fire departments ultimately brought the fire under control.

“The L.A. County Fire Department performed heroically during that week in September 2002,” Senator Feinstein said. **“We must show our support for their heroic efforts by providing them and other local fire departments the resources they need to protect our communities.”**

The \$1.5 million came from FEMA’S Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, a program dedicated to assisting local fire departments in dealing with major wildfires. The program reimburses 75 percent of the costs stemming from fighting wildfires including: expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.

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